

The new Caltrans NPDES Permit (Order No. 99-06-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003) was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 15, 1999 to cover storm water discharges from all Caltrans highways, properties, facilities and activities throughout the State.

The Caltrans Permit encompasses both construction and non-construction (municipal) activities, and also requires the Caltrans Project Development Management Program to comply with the requirements of the NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities, for construction activities that disturb five acres or more. (Projects in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit must comply with the provisions of the applicable Lahontan RWQCB Order.)

In general, Caltrans is required to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP). For discharges from construction sites, toxic pollutants must be reduced using the Best Available Technology economically feasible (BAT) and conventional pollutants must be reduced using the Best Conventional Technology (BCT). These terms (MEP, BAT, and BCT) are outlined and explained in the new Caltrans Statewide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), which is expected to be submitted to the SWRCB before the end of 1999.

### New and Revised BMP Categories

The Caltrans Statewide SWMP provides the framework of the Caltrans program to comply with the NPDES permit requirements. The 1999 revisions to the Statewide SWMP include new and revised BMP categories:

- **New/Reconstructed Facility Pollution Prevention BMPs:** Standard-technology, non-treatment BMPs considered for all projects to reduce pollutant discharges to the MEP.
- **New/Reconstructed Facility Treatment Control BMPs:** Standard-technology BMPs considered on a project-by-project basis if the CEQA/NEPA process identifies discharges that have the potential to significantly affect the environment.
- **Supplemental Water Quality Based Treatment Control BMPs:** Supplemental controls that provide removal of pollutants beyond the level attained by standard-technology based BMPs, and that may be required on a project-specific basis for projects that discharge to impaired water bodies.
- **Construction Site BMPs:** Traditional temporary BMPs selected to comply with permit BAT/BCT requirements.

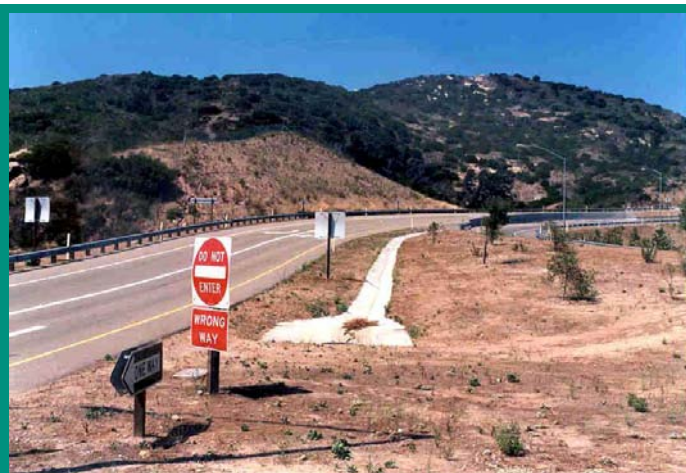
### The Role of Project Development

The task of implementing these BMPs will continue to fall largely on Project Development and the construction contractors. New/Reconstructed Facility Treatment Control BMPs and Supplemental Water Quality Based Treatment Control BMPs for impaired water bodies should be identified as early in the planning phase as possible so that their costs and right-of-way requirements can be programmed into the project. New Facility Pollution Prevention (permanent source controls) BMPs, which are selected during project design, remain largely unchanged although many BMPs have been renamed and reorganized by function. Finally, temporary construction BMPs will remain largely within the purview of construction contractors, with Caltrans approval. However, Caltrans may choose to select and incorporate temporary BMPs into the PS&E on a project-by-project and District-by-District basis.

### Project Development SWAT

The Project Development Storm Water Advisory Team (PDSWAT), working with HQ Project Development, will develop procedures and guidance materials to help PD staff implement the storm water program outlined in the SWMP. The PDSWAT is already working on several issues related to the new permit and improving overall compliance and implementation:

- Updating the Planning and Design Staff Guide (Spring 2000).
- Developing two training programs (Spring 2000) to assist Districts in training their staff: (1) storm water program overview, and (2) implementation of storm water controls in the planning and design phases.
- Developing Notification of Construction and Notice of Completion forms (December 1999)



Lined ditches are a good example of New/Reconstructed Facility Pollution Prevention BMPs that reduce pollutants to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)

### Implementing the New Caltrans NPDES Permit

The Caltrans Statewide SWMP provides the framework of the Caltrans program to comply with the new Caltrans NPDES Permit requirements

This bulletin is prepared monthly as an information resource on storm water quality issues related to the planning and design of transportation infrastructure.

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